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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A holding device for a breathing mask for connecting the mask to a protective helmet with fastening hooks on both sides of the breathing mask that can be hooked into hook receptacles formed on the outside of the protective helmet, ~~wherein characterized in that the fastening hooks are connected to the breathing mask through a length-adjustable, slack tightening strap, in that including stop elements that are both frictionally engaged as well as in positive contact with the helmet are formed in the area of the fastening hook to hold the fastening hook in hooked-in position, and in that sliding elements that stretch beyond the stop elements and are positioned at an offset, and a grip end that includes a recess that is molded to the fastening hook and a retainer piece that is molded to the tightening strap, said retainer piece positively fits into the recess while the stop elements are molded to a free surface of the retainer piece and the sliding elements are molded to lateral edges of the recess formed in the grip end for automatic positioning of the fastening hook in the hook receptacle when the tightening straps are tightened.~~

2. Cancelled

3. (Currently Amended) The holding device according to claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~, ~~wherein characterized in that the fastening hook including the grip end and sliding elements consist of a firm material with a low friction coefficient and in that the~~

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retainer piece with the stop elements molded onto it consists of a material with a high friction coefficient.

4. (Currently Amended) The holding device according to claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ ribs that are fixed in locking openings formed in the grip end are molded onto the retainer piece for positive contact, and in that the tightening strap connected with the retainer piece is conducted through a slot in the grip end.

5. (Currently Amended) The holding device according to claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a protruding first grip element is formed on the grip end.

6. ((Currently Amended) The holding device according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ an ergonomically molded second grip element is formed on the fastening hook.

7. Cancelled